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The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We are surprised to learn that a draft resolution entitled "Terrorist attacks on internationally protected persons" (A/66/L.8), which refers to the alleged plot against the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Washington, is proposed under agenda item 118 of the General Assembly. This is an unprecedented move with all its ramifications for the credibility of the United Nations. In this regard, I would like to state the following:

1. By submitting this draft, the sponsor is inviting the General Assembly to consider an unsubstantiated allegation and, as such, it would amount to an unprecedented, thus unacceptable, move. While under Article 10 of the Charter of the United Nations any matter can be considered by the General Assembly, it is evident, however, that placing hypothetical, circumstantial and unsubstantiated matters on the agenda of this august body would be a gross disservice thereto. The case at hand is a clear example in this respect. If the General Assembly allows the submission and consideration of such a draft resolution, this principal organ of the United Nations would run the risk of turning into a venue for settling political scores through the introduction of countless draft resolutions on contentious issues, which should be seriously avoided. Consequently, such an action, if pressed on, would significantly undermine the role, authority, integrity and credibility of the General Assembly as the highest universal political body of the United Nations.

2. Furthermore, by proposing this draft resolution under the agenda item entitled "the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy", the sponsor intends to exploit such an important document, which is the symbol of global consensus against terrorism. Such a politically motivated move would indeed undermine the relevance and credibility of this major consensus document.

3. The United States attitude with regard to the alleged plot, which began with an explosive media campaign against Iran, and its long-standing hostile policies, is not constructive and reveals once again the ill intentions of the former. It is worth mentioning that this Government has supported acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran in which many Iranians, including its diplomats, were



victims of such acts according to existing hard evidence, some of which were presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. As I explained in my letters dated 11 October 2011 (A/66/513-S/2011/633) and 4 November 2011 (A/66/546-S/2011/696), my Government categorically rejects the involvement of any of its officials or organs in the alleged plot against the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Washington, as it has been claimed.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its full commitment to its obligations under the relevant international legal instruments, including the 1973 "Convention on the Prevention of Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents".

6. Member States should be cautious about the adverse consequences of such a move, which is in contradiction to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the 1970 "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations".

It would be appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 83.

(Signed) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Permanent Representative